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BULLETIN
OF THE
TORREY BOTANICAL CLUB.

Vol. VII.]

New York, October, 1880.

[No. 10.]

§ 82. **Proceedings of the Torrey Club.**—The regular meeting of the Club was held at the New York College of Pharmacy, Tuesday evening, Sept. 14th. In the absence of the presiding officers, Dr. T. F. Allen occupied the chair. There were sixteen members and three visitors in attendance.

Plants Exhibited.—Mr. Wright exhibited a number of dried plants from Mt. Riga, Conn., and distributed, on behalf of the sender (Mr. Wm. Chorlton), some specimens of exotic flowering plants and ferns. Mr. Britton distributed seeds of *Megarrhiza Californica* and *Nelumbium luteum*, Willd., and exhibited specimens of *Phoradendron flavescens*, Nutt., taken from *Nyssa* in the pine barrens of New Jersey. Mr. Brown showed a large number of specimens of adventive plants from Communipaw. Specimens of *Spiranthes simplex*, Gray, from Woodlawn Cemetery, and of *Silphium perfoliatum*, L., from Fort Washington, were shown by Mr. Bicknell. Mr. Le Roy stated that the last mentioned plant was introduced into the upper portion of New York Island many years ago by a gentleman who sowed the seeds broadcast in several localities. Mr. Gerard brought specimens of *Opuntia vulgaris*, L., from the King's Bridge Road (directly west of High Bridge), and of *O. Rafinesquii*, Englm., from Fort Washington, and pointed out the difference between the two species, which are often confounded. Prof. Martin exhibited and remarked upon specimens of carnauba wax—the product of the leaves of *Copernicia cerifera*, a Brazilian palm. Prof. Martin stated that his specimen was portion of a cargo of this product recently brought to New York, but which had met with no sale, the impossibility of bleaching it rendering it unfit for many purposes in the arts and industries.

Teratology.—Dr. Kunze brought for the Club's inspection a living specimen of *Cereus*, which had been received by him from Venezuela, and in which the upper joints were greatly deformed and closely coherent, forming a compact, nearly globular mass. The changed appearance of the plant was so great as to render identification of the species impossible. Mr. Wright exhibited a specimen of *Setaria viridis*, Beauv., showing fission of the axis and a consequent formation of two well-developed spikes at the apex of the same culm. Mr. Bicknell showed a fruit of *Quercus Prinus*, L., the cupule of which contained a supernumerary, although compressed and sterile acorn.

Large Trees.—Mr. Britton stated that during his recent exploration of the pine barrens while in the employ of the N. J. Geological Survey, he observed in Manahawken Swamp, Ocean Co., a *Magnolia glauca*, the trunk of which was 32.25 inches in circumference. This tree when felled was found, on counting the rings, to be about 150 years old. In the same swamp was found an *Ilex opaca* of unknown age, with a trunk 36 inches in circumference. Mr. Britton had seen

in the museum of Rutgers' College a section of the trunk of *Liriodendron* having a circumference of 21 feet. The specimen was obtained at Marlborough, N. J.

Vitality of Gourd Seeds.—A remarkable case of duration of vitality in the seeds of a cucurbit was mentioned by Mr. Le Roy. In the Torrey collection there is a specimen of a gourd which was obtained between the years 1838 and 1842, in Patagonia, by the Wilkes Exploring Expedition. Finding three seeds still remaining in the specimen, Mr. Leroy planted them in his garden. Two of the seeds germinated, and the plants are now in fruit. For want of the necessary figures and descriptions, the species has not yet been identified.

Dr. T. F. Allen read a paper on the "Similarity between the *Characeae* of America and those of Asia."

§ 83. **Polyporus volvatus**, Peck, and its Varieties.—Since the publication of the description of this fungus in the Twenty-seventh New York State Museum Report, other forms of the species have come to my knowledge, and other observations have been made which render some additional notice of it desirable, since it presents two characters which may perhaps be deemed of more than mere specific value. The most conspicuous one is the remarkable prolongation of the margin of the pileus. This extends beyond and beneath the mouths of the pores like a thick coriaceous veil, and either wholly or partly conceals them from view. In two of the varieties* the veil opens below by a well defined circular or subelliptical aperture, usually about one-fourth of an inch in diameter. Through this aperture the spores have a way of escape, although it is so much smaller than the hymenial surface that it is not unusual to find little heaps or even masses of spores retained within the veil. These heaps of spores are generally permeated by minute filaments which apparently aid in holding the spores together. The aperture is not exactly in the centre of the veil, but nearer the posterior than the anterior surface of the fungus. The veil is a little thicker just anterior to the aperture than it is elsewhere. The thin epidermis generally disappears from the veil, so that in mature specimens this part is often a little paler than the rest. If this is cut away the remaining part of the pileus is nearly hemispherical. The hymenophore or non-porous part of the pileus, in fresh specimens, is separable into two parts. The exterior, which, by its continuation beyond the mouths of the pores, forms the veil, may be torn away from the thin interior part which lies next to and is intimately connected with the pores, very much as the rind of an orange may be peeled from the pulp. The thin interior stratum is also slightly prolonged beyond the mouths of the pores and its prolongation forms a kind of prominent margin to the hymenial surface. The other character is found at the mouths of the pores. Not only are the dissepiments here differently colored, but they are also decidedly and permanently thicker than they are elsewhere, thus making the diameter of the pore much

* In the variety *Torreyi* no aperture has yet been seen, but one probably exists in fully and properly developed specimens.